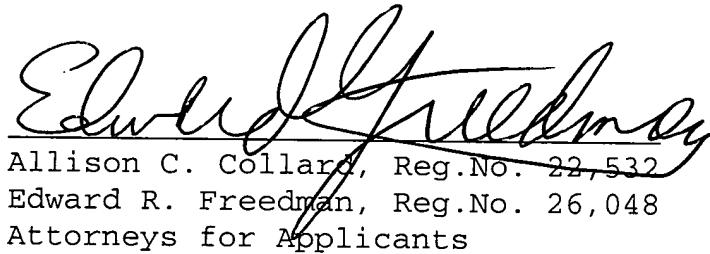


REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, the application has been amended to conform with U.S. practice, the cross-reference to the related application has been inserted on page 1. The specification has been amended and the claims have been amended in order to remove the multiple dependency. No new matter has been introduced. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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MARIA GUASTELLA